

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-05

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 FBO-01 SY-04 /011 W

----- 024258

R 031630Z MAY 74

FM AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1255

INFO AMCONSUL CALCUTTA

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE NEW DELHI 5941

FOR DEPUTY UNDERSECRETARY BROWN FROM MOYNIHAN

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ABLD, IN

SUBJ: NEW CALCUTTA OB, PROPERTY 31428/B

REFS: A. NEW DELHI 4596

B. CALCUTTA 720

C. STATE 087356

1. NOW AND THEN ONE FINDS HE MUST CHANGE THE FOCUS OF HIS ATTENTIONS TO SOMETHING REALLY IMPORTANT SUCH AS THE LACK OF GOOD SENSE OF TRYING IN WASHINGTON TO BUILD A BUILDING IN CALCUTTA. I AM SORRY TO HAVE TO SIMILARLY DIVERT YOUR ATTENTIONS BUT COULD YOU PLEASE PASS ON WORD THERE THAT WE HERE HAVE SOME FAIRLY REASONABLE IDEAS ON OUR NEEDS IN CALCUTTA AND THAT WE HOPE THE FOREIGN BUILDINGS OFFICE WILL PAY SOME ATTENTION TO THEM.

2. THEREFORE, I WOULD BE EVER SO GRATEFUL IF YOU WOULD PASS THE FOLLOWING MESSAGE TO THOSE WHO MAKE SUCH DECISIONS.

QUOTE. I HAVE BEEN FOLLOWING THE EXCHANGE OF TELEGRAMS ON THE NEW CONSULATE GENERAL BILDING IN CALCUTTA. I HAVE FELT FROM THE BEGINNING THE RATIONALE PUT FORWARD BY OUR CONSUL GENERAL FOR LOCATING THE CONFERENCE ROOM ON THE THIRD FLOOR AND THE OFFICES OF THE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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KEY SUBSTANTIVE OFFICERS ON THE FOURTH FLOOR MADE

EMINENT GOOD SENSE. I NOTED THAT THE INSPECTORS AND RSO KASTENS ALSO FELT THAT WAY.

I HAVE JUST RETURNED FROM A TRIP TO CALCUTTA. WHILE THERE I HAD MY SECOND LOOK AT THE WAY THE CONSULATE GENERAL FUNCTIONS, AND MY FIRST LOOK AT THE NEW BUILDING. MY CONVICTION WAS CONFIRMED THAT THE LOCATION OF THE CONFERENCE ROOM PROPOSED BY THE CTNSUL GENERAL IS CORRECT.

THIS IS A SMALL, COMPACT ORGANIZATION. SEVERAL OF THE KEY OFFICERS OF THE CONSULATE GENERAL TALK OVER VIRTUALLY EVERY IMPORTANT TOPIC THAT COMES UP. THE IDEA THAT THEY MUST ADJOURN TO A CONFERENCE ROOM EVERY TIME THEY WISH TO DO THIS, OR THAT HALF OF THEM MUST RUN UP A FLIGHT OF STAIRS TO DO SO, IS ABSURD. IN PRACTICE, ANYONE

WITH EXPERIENCE OF THIS KIND OF SETUP KNOWS THAT CONFERENCE ROOMS STAND EMPTY MUST OF THE TIME. IT SIMPLY MAKES NO SENSE TO HAVE A LARGE UNUSED SPACE ON THE EXECUTIVE FLOOR WHEN THAT SPACE IS NEEDED TO MAKE THE PLACE FUNCTION PROPERLY.

I WAS THEREFORE A LITTLE SHOCKED TO SEE REF C, WHICH CAME IN WHILE I WAS IN CALCUTTA. THE FIRST ITEM DISAPPROVED THE VERY SENSIBLE PROPOSAL I HAVE JUST DESCRIBED FOR THE FOLLOWING REASON: QTE CONFERENCE ROOM SHOULD BE LOCATED AS CLOSE AS POSSIBLE TO THE CONSUL GENERAL'S OFFICE TO DISCOURAGE CLASSIFIED DISCUSSIONS IN OFFICES UNQT. I REQUEST IMMEDIATE REVERSAL OF THAT DECISION.

I ALSO WANT TO WEIGH IN HEAVILY IN FAVOR OF HAVING OUR ENTRANCE TO THE PLANNED COMMERCIAL LIBRARY IMMEDIATELY UPON THE RIGHT AS ONE ENTERS THE BUILDING. I UNDERSTAND THAT THIS PROPOSAL HAS ALSO BEEN DISAPPROVED. I DON'T UNDERSTAND WHY. THE HOLE IN THE WALL IS ALREADY THERE, THE ADDITIONAL EXPENSE IF ANY WILL BE MINIMAL, AND IF THE CONSULATE IS TO FULFILL ITS IMPORTANT COMMERCIAL FUNCTION, WHICH WE ARE MAKING STRONG EFFORTS TO ENHANCE, IT IS VITAL THAT THE VISIT OR LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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HAVING THESE INTERESTS FIND AN INVITING, OPEN-LOOKING AREA GREET HIM WHEN HE FIRST ENTERS THE BUILDING. OUR SECURITY OFFICER HAS ALREADY ADEQUATELY ADDRESSED THE SECURITY ASPECTS OF THIS PROPOSAL (REF B). END QUOTE.
MOYNIHAN

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